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ZNR UUUUU

HEADER

P 271412Z FEB 02
FM DIA WASHINGTON DC
INFO RUEALGX/SAFE
P 271200Z FEB 02
FM SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//OUSDP ISA/DPMO//
TO RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW//POW-MIA//
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC
INFO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC// (b) (3)
RUEHMO/AMCONSUL VLADIVOSTOK
RUEHLN/AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG
RUEHYG/AMCONSUL YEKATERINBURG
RUEKDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC [REDACTED]
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//USDP/ISA/DPMO/JCSD//
RUHVAAA/COMMCEN HICKAM AFB HI//USACILHI//
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC//OJCS-PW/MIA/J5//
RHHMUNA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J01//
RUHEMAD/CDR JTFFA HONOLULU HI
RUAGKFC/CINCUNC CFC SEOUL KOR
RHMFIUU/CINCUNC CFC SEOUL KOR
RUFDGDU/DIR MARSHALL CENTER GARMISCH GE//ECMC-ES//
RULSNDX/NAVHISTCEN WASHINGTON DC
RHMFIUU/NAVHISTCEN WASHINGTON DC
RUEHKV/AMEMBASSY KIEV
RUEHSK/AMEMBASSY MINSK
RUEHNT/AMEMBASSY TASHKENT
RUEHTA/AMEMBASSY ALMATY
RUEHVL/AMEMBASSY VILNIUS
RUEHRA/AMEMBASSY RIGA
RUEHTL/AMEMBASSY TALLINN
RUEHHI/AMEMBASSY HANOI
RUEHVN/AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
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CONTROLS

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BODY

SUBJECT: JCSD INTERVIEW WITH SOVIET KOREAN WAR VETERAN NIKOLAJ ZAKHAROVICH BRAZHENKO.

SUMMARY: JANUARY 5, 2002, JCSD REPRESENTATIVES MSG MICHAEL LUNINI AND SSG JAMES SHONBORN TRAVELED TO KHARKOV, UKRAINE, TO INTERVIEW SOVIET KOREAN WAR VETERAN NIKOLAJ ZAKHAROVICH BRAZHENKO, WHO WAS UNABLE TO PROVIDE DETAILS CONCERNING THE FATE OF MISSING AMERICAN SERVICEMEN. HE WAS ABLE TO PROVIDE SOME INFORMATION ON ANOTHER SOVIET VETERAN WHO SERVED IN THE KOREAN THEATER OF WAR.

1. JANUARY 5, 2002, JCSD REPRESENTATIVES MSG MICHAEL LUNINI AND SSG JAMES SHONBORN TRAVELED TO KHARKOV, UKRAINE, TO INTERVIEW SOVIET KOREAN WAR VETERAN NIKOLAJ ZAKHAROVICH BRAZHENKO, ULITSA KHAROLSKAYA, DOM 20, TEL: (0572) 514-383.

2. DURING THE KOREAN WAR, BRAZHENKO SERVED AS A PILOT AND ZAMPOLIT (POLITICAL OFFICER) IN THE 518TH FIGHTER AVIATION REGIMENT (FAR), 216TH FIGHTER AVIATION DIVISION (FAD). THE 216TH FAD WAS ORIGINALLY STATIONED IN SAMARKAND. IT WAS TRANSFERRED TO BAKU, REARMED WITH MIG-15'S, AND REASSIGNED TO MANCHURIA FROM AUGUST 1952 TO JUNE 1953 AS PART OF THE 64TH FIGHTER AVIATION CORPS. THE 216TH BASED TWO REGIMENTS AT MYAOGOU AND ONE REGIMENT AT DAPU ON AUGUST 15, 1952. ITS MISSION DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS, IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER UNITS OF THE CORPS, WAS TO PERFORM INTERCEPTS AND FREE HUNTS UP TO THE LINE FORMED BY PYONGYANG-GENZAN AND TO PROTECT THE HYDROELECTRIC STATION AT SUPUN, THE RAIL BRIDGES OVER THE YALU IN THE ANDUN AREA, THE AIRFIELDS IN THE ANDUN AREA, NORTH KOREAN COMMUNICATIONS FORCES, AND OTHER OBJECTS OF NORTHEASTERN CHINA IN THE DIRECTION OF MUKDEN. THE 518TH CONDUCTED COMBAT OPERATIONS FROM AUGUST 10, 1952 THROUGH JULY 27, 1953. THE ENTIRE DIVISION WAS THEN SENT TO ARCHANGELSK.

3. BRAZHENKO IS CREDITED WITH SHOOTING DOWN AN F-86 AIRCRAFT ON NOVEMBER 20, 1952. ACCORDING TO BRAZHENKO, HIS SQUADRON WAS PROVIDING LANDING COVERAGE FOR ANOTHER SQUADRON OVER THE AIRFIELD AT MYAOGOU WHEN A FLIGHT OF F-86S APPEARED FROM BEHIND THE CLOUD COVER. HE NOTICED AN F-86 ATTEMPTING TO ATTACK ANOTHER SOVIET PILOT AND CLOSED ON THE F-86 TO 300-400 METERS. BRAZHENKO FIRED A SHORT BURST FROM HIS 23MM CANNONS AND NOTICED HIS ROUNDS IMPACTING THE RIGHT WING OF THE AIRCRAFT. THE F-86 BEGAN TO LOOSE ALTITUDE AND BANKED SHARPLY TO THE RIGHT. BRAZHENKO SAID THAT MAJOR PETR VASILEVICH SAMOYLOV LED THE SEARCH GROUP TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE F-86 HAD BEEN SHOT DOWN OR MERELY DAMAGED. SAMOYLOV REPORTED THE F-86 THAT BRAZHENKO HAD FIRED ON CRASHED INTO THE KOREAN GULF. BRAZHENKO WAS NOT ABLE TO PRODUCE HIS "LETNYAYA KNIGA" (PILOT'S LOG) TO VERIFY THE CLAIM (JCSD NOTE: JCSD ANALYSTS WORKING AT THE CENTRAL ARCHIVES OF THE RUSSIAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, PODOLSK, RUSSIA, HAVE REVIEWED AIR BATTLE REPORTS FROM THE 216TH FAR CONCERNING THIS CLAIM. HOWEVER, SAMOYLOV'S SEARCH GROUP REPORT ON THIS INCIDENT HAS NOT BEEN REVIEWED TO DATE. THIS CLAIM CANNOT BE CORRELATED WITH U.S. LOSS RECORDS. THE ONLY AMERICAN AIRCRAFT LOST ON THIS DATE WAS AN F-84G THAT CRASHED ON A GUNNERY RANGE IN FRIENDLY TERRITORY.).

5. BRAZHENKO SAID THAT HE KNEW OF ANOTHER SOVIET KOREAN WAR VETERAN WHO WAS LIVING IN KHARKOV, MIKHAIL SELIVERSTOVICH DIDENKO, TEL: (0572) 36-52-13. WHEN CONTACTED, DIDENKO REFUSED TO MEET WITH JCSD INTERVIEWERS.

6. BIOGRAPHY: NIKOLAJ ZAKHAROVICH BRAZHENKO WAS BORN ON AUGUST 1, 1921, IN NOVO-AVRANUK, POLTOVSKOY OBLAST, UKRAINE. HE FINISHED THE TENTH GRADE BEFORE ENTERING MILITARY SERVICE IN 1939. HE ATTENDED THE MILITARY AVIATION TECHNICAL ACADEMY IN KHARKOV. HE COMPLETED HIS TRAINING IN 1940 AND WAS ASSIGNED AS AN AIRCRAFT TECHNICIAN IN THE 169TH FIGHTER AVIATION REGIMENT. IN 1942 HE ENTERED THE SIXTH

MILITARY AVIATION SCHOOL FOR PILOTS IN CHERNOGORSK. BRAZHENKO WAS TRAINED AS A FIGHTER PILOT ON IL-2 AND YAK-7B AIRCRAFT. HE COMPLETED HIS TRAINING IN 1943 AND WAS SENT TO THE 879TH FAR IN KHARKOV. IN 1946, THE 879TH FAR WAS DISBANDED AND BRAZHENKO WAS ASSIGNED TO THE 518TH FAR, 216TH PVO FIGHTER AVIATION DIVISION (FAD). HE SERVED AS A PILOT AND POLITICAL OFFICER IN THE SOVIET AIR FORCES UNTIL HIS RETIREMENT IN JANUARY 1960. BRAZHENKO ACHIEVED THE RANK OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL AND HIS FINAL ASSIGNMENT WAS AS THE DEPUTY COMMANDER FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS, 70TH FAR, KHARKOV, UKRAINE. 7. BRAZHENKO SAID THAT HE WOULD MEET AGAIN WITH JCSD REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD THEY HAVE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS.

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